

NET TRAVELER / BY MICHAEL SWAINE



Virtual Vacation

From Paris to California, from Iceland to the beach:
Travel the world from your desktop.

YOU SWOOP DOWN INTO PARIS out of the virtual sky. Leaving the satellite view of the Virtual Tourist World Map (<http://wings.buffalo.edu/world/>), you dive into the City of Light. Seconds later, you're investigating

lodging and dining at <http://www.calvacom.fr/relais/france/paris/paris.html>. What a way to research ideas for your summer vacation: clicking your way around the planet on the World Wide Web.

Virtual Museum. Let's see, you've been to the Louvre and seen the Mona Lisa, but you recall how Mona's sly grin was deconstructed in the April *Scientific American* by computer artist Lillian Schwartz. Coincidentally, she's exhibiting her own work just now at (click) the Pompidou Center: <http://www.cnac-gp.fr/horaires.html>. Now you're wishing your French were better.

Well, there's always the Smithsonian at <http://www.si.edu/>. Maybe the kids would prefer the interactive science exhibits at San Francisco's Exploratorium (<http://www.exploratorium.edu/>) or a theme park picked from the list at Stanford's Yahoo site: http://www.yahoo.com/Entertainment/Amusement_Parks/.

Once you've put the little ones on the roller coaster, send the teens to the Lollapalooza Electric Carnival, companion to the music festival of the same name (<http://lollapalooza.com>).

The WWW's a Stage. By some odd neural link, this makes you think: theater. The obvious destinations are Broadway (<http://www.escape.com/eMall/explore/broadway/bway1.html>) and London (<http://www.nag.co.uk/0/Homes/RobertI/Theatre.html>), but you've never been one for the obvious. Pausing briefly to check the weather (<http://rs560.cl.msu.edu/weather/interactive>

.html) and bed-and-breakfast vacancies in northern California (<http://www.baynet.com/bb/list.html>), you click over to read through the theatrical offerings at Shakespeare Santa Cruz (<http://www.circus.com/~jasona/shakespeareSantaCruz.html>). Looks good.

During the days, you can tour mountain wineries (<http://www.wines.com/scevents.html>). Or maybe you'll stay on the East Coast and explore New York at <http://www.escape.com/eMall/explore/ny1.html>.

Natural Highs. But now you're getting into something completely different, as you click back and forth between <http://www.gorp.com/> and <http://www.yahoo.com/Entertainment/Outdoors/> for information on hiking, backpacking, climbing, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, and so on. You check the Major League Baseball schedule, if any, at <http://www.cs.rochester.edu/cgi-bin/ferguson/mlb>. Let's see ... nude beaches at <http://www.realtime.net:80/~kr4ah/>.

How about something even more different? Spelunking. That's it. Why don't you visit a nice cool cave. And, of course, the primo place for *real* cavers is Iceland. Let's see, Icelandic spelunking ... that would be <http://www.strengur.is/~throstur/cave/cave.html>.

Home on the Home Page. Eager though you are to crawl on your belly under the Icelandic countryside, maybe this would be a good year to stay home and face some of those

repairs you've been putting off. You screen the *Popular Mechanics* QuickTime home-repair videos at <http://popularmechanics.com/>. Better yet, you could just kick back, sip proper mint juleps (the Internet Bartender's Guide is at <http://www.mcs.com/~doc/guide.html>), and click on the Electronic Newsstand (<http://www.eneews.com/>) to get caught up on your summer reading.

Then it hits you. There's a whole world to explore. *It's all here.* You'll spend your summer in cyberspace.

Tip of the Month

If you're using an old version (1.x) of NCSA Mosaic, get yourself a newer one or switch to MacWeb or Netscape. The older Mosaic



doesn't support forms — a nifty feature that lets you search or enter information on Web pages. Get up-to-date at <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/SDG/Software/MacMosaic/MacMosaicHome.html>.

Don't Know HTTP from HDTV?

MacUser maintains a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the Internet, *MacUser* itself, and this column specifically. Send mail to faq@macuser.ziff.com. *MacUser's* World Wide Web address is <http://www.macuser.ziff.com/~macuser/>. You can reach me at traveler@macuser.ziff.com. ☺